

The Florida House of Representatives

State Infrastructure Council Spaceport & Technology Committee

Allan G. Bense Speaker Bob Allen Chair

April 8, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush President Of The United States 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

The Florida House of Representatives respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to support the nation's new Vision for Space Exploration and encourages Congress to continue to enact and fund the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's program implementing the nation's new Vision for Space Exploration

The new Vision for Space Exploration charts a strategy to explore destinations across our solar system and provides our nation the competitive edge in the new world-wide industry of space commerce. Space exploration benefits all humankind through new technologies and commercial spin-offs for everyday application, creates jobs and economic contributions through new markets and commercial products, and improves life quality not only to United State citizens, but worldwide.

Florida has been the world's premier gateway to space for human exploration and commerce for more than 50 years and looks forward to **leading the way** in the new exploration effort. Congress has seen fit to approve and enact NASA's 2005 budget initiating the Vision which charts a course that begins in Florida with the safe return of the Space Shuttle to flight and the completion of the International Space Station. It is our desire to be competitive in returning humans to the Moon and extending mankind's presence to Mars and beyond.

We congratulate and thank the Congress of the United States for funding and supporting NASA's implementation plan for the Space Exploration missions as submitted to Congress in the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget of the United States Government. We request that Congress continue to fully support the Vision well into the future and enable the United States, and Florida in particular, to remain a leader in the exploration of space.

Given these circumstances and the urgent public need to retain and expand the economy in this sector, we respectfully communicate to Congress and NASA, <u>Florida's support and our desire to be competitive in the new vision for space</u>.

Sincerely,	
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